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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NRO

A. The National Reconnaissance Program

1. The National Reconnaissance Program is a single program, national in character, for the development, management, control, and operation of all projects, both current and long range, for the collection of intelligence and mapping and geodetic information obtained through overflights (excluding peripheral reconnaissance operations).

2. The Secretary of Defense is the executive agent for all aspects of the National Reconnaissance Program, including the management of all programs and the tasking of other agencies to cooperate in such programs.

B. The National Reconnaissance Office.

1. The National Reconnaissance Office will be a separate operating agency of the Department of Defense and will have the task of discharging the Secretary's responsibility as executive agent for the National Reconnaissance Program.

2. The Director of the NRO will be appointed by the Secretary of Defense from among the civilian officers of the Department of the Air Force appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate and will be responsible solely to the Secretary of Defense. The DNRO will be assisted by a Deputy Director chosen from among the employees of CIA and who will have authority to act on all NRO matters in the absence of the DNRO.

3. The NRO shall be jointly staffed by personnel from the CIA, and three military departments and other DoD agencies. All NRO personnel will serve solely under the direction and supervision of the DNRO.

OSD HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE.

C. Functions and Responsibilities

1. The Director of Central Intelligence and Chairman of the USIB will

OSD and NRO review(s)  
completed.

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- a. establish requirements and priorities for intelligence collection and communicate these to the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, to serve as a basis for scheduling and targeting the reconnaissance missions of the National Reconnaissance Program;
- b. review the intelligence collected by the National Reconnaissance Program to insure that it is responsive to the requirements established by the United States Intelligence Board;
- c. recommend to the President or to the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate, steps for the improvement of such collection;
- d. establish and manage research and development organization within the Central Intelligence Agency, to be tasked by the NRO in the area of collection research and exploratory development;
- e. review the budget of the National Reconnaissance Program each year before its presentation to the Bureau of the Budget.
- f. be responsible for the prompt analysis, and reporting for appropriate uses, of the photographic and signals intelligence obtained from the National Reconnaissance Program, provided, however, that the processing and analysis of SIGINT information will be carried on through the National Security Agency;
- g. be responsible for the utilization of intelligence collected through the NRO in the preparation of national intelligence estimates.
- h. be responsible for providing the Secretary of Defense the security policy guidance for the maintenance of a uniform system of security procedures in the whole area of the National Reconnaissance Program.

2. The Secretary of Defense as executive agent will

- a. appoint the Director of the NRO;

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b. establish an executive Committee, consisting of the DCI, Deputy Secretary of Defense, DNRO and such other persons as he may designate to assist him in

- (1) supervising the NRO;
- (2) approving budgets;
- (3) monitoring the execution of the program;
- (4) assigning programs to be carried on beyond the exploratory phase by the CIA under NRO tasking.

c. maintain a close and continuing cooperation with the Director of Central Intelligence to keep him informed of his plans, to insure that a most productive utilization of national resources and skills is made in meeting critical intelligence objectives, and to insure that opportunities are supplied to the Director of Central Intelligence to fulfill his monitoring task by periodically surveying the progress made under the program;

d. instruct the DNRO to establish a Satellite Operations Center within \_\_\_\_\_ to be responsible for the scheduling, tasking and controlling of all overhead reconnaissance operations approved by superior authorities and for provision of their necessary support;

e. instruct the DNRO to provide for a \_\_\_\_\_ facility to be managed by \_\_\_\_\_ where computations are made to determine optimum orbital parameters for coverage of designated targets and areas.

3. The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office will, subject to review by the Secretary of Defense and the Executive Committee, :

a. have authority to initiate, modify, redirect, or terminate all research and development programs in the National Reconnaissance Program;

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b. establish within his office a Director of Research and Development, at the same organizational level as the Director of Operations, and assign to him the responsibility for the formulation of research and development programs in both the satellite and aircraft fields;

c. prepare a coordinated, comprehensive budget for all aspects of the National Reconnaissance Program;

d. establish a fiscal control and accounting procedure to insure that all funds expended in support of the National Reconnaissance Program are fully accounted for and appropriately utilized by the agencies concerned. The budget shall, in particular, show separately those funds to be applied to research and exploratory development, advanced development, engineering development, and operational development. It shall show the portion of the funds for research and exploratory development that are assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency.

e. insure that sufficient funds in the area of exploratory development and research are assigned to the CIA to make effective use of its capabilities;

f. assign to the CIA advanced development, engineering development or operational development programs in exceptional cases when directed by the Executive Committee of the Secretary of Defense (see 2. b. (4)).

D. Interim Measures

1. As an interim measure, the Central Intelligence Agency shall continue the management of the CORONA Payloads under the direction of the Director, National Reconnaissance Office.

2. OX CART. This program will \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Central Intelligence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Defense

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